

colleagues throughout the state of North Carolina, particularly at Western Carolina University. Dr. Belcher's wife, Susan Belcher, the Belcher family, and the community of Western Carolina University are in my prayers during this time. It was a privilege to know Chancellor Belcher and, on behalf of the people of Western North Carolina, I am honored to celebrate his life and recognize his many outstanding achievements.

#### FAIRNESS IN POLITICAL ADVERTISING ACT

#### HON. MARCY KAPTUR

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2018*

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to reintroduce my bill, the Fairness in Political Advertising Act. It's time to level the playing field for viable candidates to compete against campaigns bankrolled by special interests. My bill would provide this access. It would require television stations to make available 2 hours of free advertising broadcast time during each even-numbered year, to each qualified political candidate in a statewide or national election.

The direction we are headed, only millionaires or corporate interests will have a seat at the representative table. This is unacceptable in our democracy.

Of the money raised in political campaigns, the largest expense for campaigns is advertising. Even today in this internet world, most dollars are still spent on television ads. In the 2014 midterms, \$2.8 billion was spent on political television ads. In 2018, Cook Political Report estimates \$2.4 billion will be spent on local broadcast and another \$850 million for local cable.

The math is clear: to be a viable candidate in America today, you need an incredible amount of capital. Our Fathers would be ashamed of this truth.

We must return to an era of access for all. Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring the Fairness in Political Advertising Act to the floor for a vote today and work to level the playing field for all candidates who want to participate in our democracy. Access should not require a campaign bankrolled by special interests. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. DOUG COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2018*

Mr. COLLINS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, June 22, 2018, I missed votes because I was unavoidably detained due to a death in the family.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 287; and YEA on Roll Call No. 288.

#### HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE 53RD WEATHER RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON

#### HON. CHARLIE CRIST

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2018*

Mr. CRIST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, the famed "Hurricane Hunters." This group of brave men and women from across the country save countless lives each year by literally "flying into the eye of the storm," to collect data unattainable by other means. In communities across Florida, we have seen firsthand how critical this information is to hurricane preparedness and recovery.

The "Hurricane Hunters" are a component of the 403rd Wing at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Mississippi. Serving the Eastern Gulf of Mexico, they are the only operational unit in the world, flying weather reconnaissance on a regular basis. Their 20 aircrews consistently fly into tropical storms and hurricanes to fulfill their mission when and where it is most critically needed.

Early and accurate detection is key to providing millions of Americans ample time to prepare and evacuate. The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron is on constant standby, and can be deployed to up to three storms at once—crucial during a busy storm season. The 53rd works closely with the National Hurricane Center and NOAA to collect and relay real-time data from the center of the storm, the backbone of public weather alerts and warnings.

While modern satellites have greatly improved our ability to analyze storms at a distance, the data collected through firsthand observation provides a level of detail that remote analysis cannot match. By providing this information, the 53rd reduces the "cone of uncertainty," projecting the storm's path, by nearly 30 percent. These enhanced projections provide critical lead time to prepare and respond, enhancing the protection of lives and property.

In a typically male-dominated field, the 53rd Squadron also stands out. With six female officers, they serve as role models for little girls everywhere who love science and dream of serving their country.

I am humbled to honor the legacy of our Hurricane Hunters, who put their lives on the line every day to protect Floridians and the American people from tropical storms and hurricanes. I thank them for all that they do, risking their lives in service to the public.

#### HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ARMY WARRANT OFFICER CORPS

#### HON. MARTHA ROBY

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2018*

Mrs. ROBY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the 100th anniversary of the Army Warrant Officer Corps.

The Army Warrant Officer Corps was established on July 9, 1918, to serve as the technical foundation for the U.S. Army. Today,

Army Warrant Officers serve as technical experts, combat leaders, trainers, or advisers who fall into one of two categories: Aviators or Technicians. Army Warrant Officers serve on active duty, U.S. Army Reserve, and Army National Guard. I am proud that candidates are trained at the Warrant Officer Candidate School (WOCS) administered by the Warrant Officer Career College at Fort Rucker in the Wiregrass region of Alabama's Second Congressional District.

I recently introduced House Resolution 947, legislation to designate July 9th as "Warrant Officer Day." Since the Corps' establishment, Army Warrant Officers have continually demonstrated superb expertise and professionalism in carrying out the objectives of the U.S. Army. This resolution is a small token of appreciation for the service and sacrifices of the brave men and women who have and are currently serving as Army Warrant Officers.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to acknowledge the Army Warrant Officer's centennial anniversary and to celebrate this special occasion with those who serve.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF COLONEL JOSEPH M. MURRAY

#### HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 27, 2018*

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Colonel Joseph M. Murray for his service as Commander at Marine Corps Base Quantico. Colonel Murray has served as Commander at Marine Corps Base Quantico since the summer of 2015, during which time he has provided extensive support and leadership for the Quantico community.

Colonel Murray was born and raised in Washington, D.C., graduating from Gonzaga College High School in the District. He has long been dedicated to serving our great Nation, as he was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps following his graduation from Ohio Wesleyan University. Since commissioning, he has held many operational assignments, including tours with 2nd Marine Division Camp Lejeune, North Carolina with 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st BN 2nd Marines, and 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion. He also served as the Deputy G-3, 2nd Marine Logistics Group, and commanded 2nd Supply Battalion during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Serving as Commander of Marine Corps Base Quantico is the newest adornment to his extensive list of military accomplishments, and I am extremely grateful for Colonel Murray's service to Marine Corps Base Quantico and our great Nation.

I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with Colonel Murray on several different occasions on behalf of our men and women in uniform residing in Virginia's First Congressional District. I extend my best wishes to Colonel Joseph M. Murray as his Change of Command approaches and he embarks on his next journey with the Marine Corps. He has proven a phenomenal leader, and I am certain that he will continue to lead with the confidence and commitment he has shown as Commander of Marine Corps Base Quantico as he continues his career as a Marine.